



**Superior Court of Arizona  
Juvenile Probation Department  
Maricopa County**

**VICTIM'S GUIDE  
A DESCRIPTION  
OF THE  
JUVENILE COURT PROCESS**

**Victim's Rights Coordinators  
(602) 506-4471**

**Durango Facility  
3125 West Durango  
Phoenix, Arizona 85009  
(602) 506-4011  
(602) 506-4143 (TT)**

**Southeast Facility  
1810 South Lewis Street  
Mesa, Arizona 85210  
(602) 506-2500  
(602) 506-2260 (TT)**

This brochure is a simplified explanation of how the Juvenile system operates.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Juveniles who are arrested for “delinquent offenses” (crimes, if committed by adults) are treated differently than adult offenders. The Juvenile Court system has two primary goals:

- To protect the community
- To rehabilitate the juvenile

The Juvenile Court believes that victims are important: that they should be treated respectfully. Victims will be contacted at various stages of the Juvenile Court process to be notified of hearings, releases from detention and probation; and to obtain requests for restitution (financial losses) and their opinions and feelings regarding the offenses and the offender.

## **REFERRALS**

When the police arrest a juvenile for an offense the officer will complete a “Juvenile Complaint”, listing the charges and describing the offenses. The police officer should also notify the victim of their rights. The police officer or the Juvenile Probation Department may then detain or release the juvenile. Most repeat offenders or more serious offenders are detained and must appear for court. Some first time offenders will enter a Diversion Program.

## **DIVERSION**

Some first time juvenile offenders of less serious offenses are assigned to a Diversion Program. The Community Justice Probation Officer will notify the victim about the diversion process and restitution.

## **ADVISORY HEARING (FIRST APPEARANCE)**

The Advisory Hearing is not a trial, but is a time to inform the juvenile of his/her legal rights and with an attorney present enter a plea of guilty or not guilty. A trial or sentencing date will be set.

## **PLEA AGREEMENTS**

Before the Adjudication Hearing, the attorneys will often discuss the case and may negotiate the case and arrive at a plea agreement. Negotiations may include:

- Certain charges being dismissed, reduced or agreed upon
- A decision as to restitution and amounts

If a plea agreement is not reached the case will go to Adjudication.

## **ADJUDICATION (TRIAL)**

The Adjudication is conducted as a trial with the attorneys presenting arguments and witnesses. The victim may or may not be called to testify. However, it is the right of a

victim to be present at any hearing, including the Adjudication. Two results can occur:

- A not guilty decision, or
- A guilty decision

When the juvenile is found not delinquent (not guilty), the case is dismissed.

When a juvenile is found delinquent (guilty), the Juvenile Probation Officer will inform the victims that they can:

- Request restitution (Verified Victim Statement)
- Make a victim impact statement to the court
- Receive selected information from the juvenile's pre-sentence report

The victim will be informed of the Disposition Hearing (sentencing) date, time and place.

## **DISPOSITION HEARING (SENTENCING)**

The Juvenile Probation Officer evaluates and prepares a report and makes a recommendation to the Judge. At the Disposition Hearing, the Judge may order one or more of the following:

- Restitution, monetary penalties, or community service
- Probation, which may include drug treatment, support treatment, residential placement, or
- Commitment to the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC)

## **Your rights as a victim**

Victims may request or waive the following rights:

- ❖ To receive:
  - ❖ A copy of the terms and conditions of release
  - ❖ Notification of scheduled court hearings
  - ❖ Notice of disposition results
  - ❖ A copy of the pre-disposition report
  - ❖ Notice of the juvenile's adjudication or dismissal of charges
  - ❖ A form to request post-adjudication notification
  - ❖ Prompt restitution
- ❖ To talk with a prosecutor prior to a plea, dismissal or trial
- ❖ To make a Victim Impact Statement

## **The emotional impact of crime**

Many victims are emotionally affected by the crime. Although everyone reacts differently, victims and witnesses report some common behaviors, such as:

- ❖ Anger
- ❖ Feelings of panic and anxiety
- ❖ Increased concern for their personal safety and that of their family
- ❖ Nightmares and a change in sleep patterns
- ❖ Depression, difficulty in handling everyday problems
- ❖ Feelings of self-doubt, shame and guilt
- ❖ Reliving what happened

Everyone copes with tragedy differently. You may want to talk about what happened with a counselor, clergy member, family friend or other victims. The Victim's Rights Coordinators can assist you in finding appropriate services. Call 506-4471.

# **VICTIM'S SERVICES**

**Maricopa County Juvenile Probation  
Victim's Rights Coordinator  
506-4471**

**Maricopa County Attorney**  
Victim Witness Division, **Juvenile** Court Advocates  
Mesa ~ 962-8002  
Phoenix ~ 455-3877  
Victim Witness Division, **Adult** Court Advocates  
506-8522  
Victim Compensation Program  
506-4955

**Maricopa County Sheriff's Office**  
Victim's Notification  
256-5484

**Victim's Assistance**  
Phoenix City Prosecutors  
261-8192  
Glendale Police Department  
930-3030  
Mesa Police Department  
644-4075  
Peoria Police Department  
412-7099  
Scottsdale Police Department  
391-5055  
Tempe Police Department  
350-8780

**Center Against Sexual Assault**  
24-hour Hotline ~ 254-9000  
General Number ~ 254-6400

**Sexual Assault Recovery Institute**  
235-9345

**Battered Women Hotline**  
944-4999

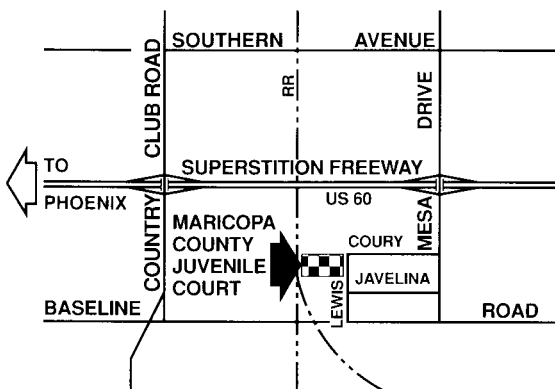
**National Child Abuse Helpline**  
1-800-422-4453

**Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence**  
1-800-782-6400  
279-2900

**ComCare (24-hour Crisis Service)**  
1-800-631-1314  
222-9444

**Community Information and Referral**  
263-8856

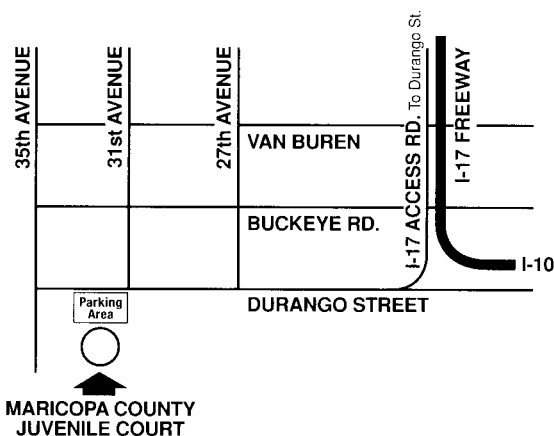
# MARICOPA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT



NORTH

## Location Map

1810 S. LEWIS STREET  
MESA, ARIZONA 85210



NORTH

## Location Map

3125 W. DURANGO STREET  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85009